

Message Text

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ACTION MC-02

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 PM-04 TRSE-00 COME-00 CIAE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 EB-07 DODE-00 L-03 SY-05 /035 W

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R 291607Z AUG 75

FM AMCONSUL PARAMARIBO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2157

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PARAMARIBO 0434

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: MILI, NS

SUBJ: LAWS GOVERNING FIREARM IMPORTATION

REF : STATE 177789

1. RESUME OF SURINAM LAWS GOVERNING IMPORTATION OF FIREARMS
AND AMMUNITION FOLLOWS, AS REQUESTED REFTTEL.

2. RIFLES AND HANDGUNS, WHICH ARE TREATED AS WAR MATERIEL,
MAY BE IMPORTED ONLY IN EXCEPTIONAL CASES, E.G. FOR OFFICIAL
BODIES. SHOTGUNS AND AMMUNITION FOR SHOTGUNS, RIFLES AND
HANDGUNS MAY BE IMPORTED FOR THE TRADE. ASPIRING DEALERS MUST
APPLY TO ATTORNEY-GENERAL FOR LICENSES TO TRADE IN FIREARMS.
CRITERIA FOR ISSUING THESE LICENSES ARE NOT AVAILABLE, BUT
AUTHORITIES EVIDENTLY ARE TRYING TO KEEP DOWN NUMBERS. ONLY
ABOUT TEN FIRMS HOLD FIREARMS TRADING LICENSES AT PRESENT
TIME, ACCORDING TO KNOWLEDGEABLE SOURCES. ONLY LICENSED DEALERS
MAY APPLY TO ATTORNEY-GENERAL TO OBTAIN LICENSES FOR IMPORT-
ATION OF FIREARMS AND AMMUNITION. CURRENTLY, AUTHORITIES ARE
LIMITING IMPORT LICENSES TO 100 SHOTGUNS PER DEALER, PER YEAR,
UP SLIGHTLY FROM 85 LAST YEAR, AND THEY DO NOT HESITATE TO
DENY OR CUT BACK REQUESTS FOR WHAT ARE CONSIDERED EXCESSIVE
AMOUNTS OF AMMUNITION.

3. TO PURCHASE SHOTGUN AND AMMUNITION, INDIVIDUAL MUST APPLY
TO POLICE OR DISTRICT COMMISSIONER (DEPENDING UPON PLACE OF
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RESIDENCE) FOR LICENSE TO CARRY FIREARM AND FOR ONE-TIME PUR-

CHASE CERTIFICATE. CERTIFICATE IS THEN PRESENTED TO DEALER.
DEALER RECORDS SALE AND INDIVIDUAL REPORTS BACK TO POLICE WITH
FIREARM. IN ADDITION, DEALERS MUST OPEN THEIR RECORD BOOKS, AS
WELL AS STOCKS OF FIREARMS, TO REGULAR, PERIODIC POLICE
INSPECTION.

4. THESE COMPREHENSIVE CONTROLS HAVE WORKED FAIRLY WELL UNTIL
NOW TO LIMIT INCIDENCE OF FIREARMS IN SURINAM, BUT AT TIME OF
RISING CRIME RATES AND RACIAL AND POLITICAL TENSIONS THERE IS
SOME OFFICIAL CONCERN ABOUT AND EVIDENCE OF GROWING ILLEGAL
ENTRY OF ARMS.
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